

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

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1. The Army Command has begun to retain certain reserve officers in service after completion of stipulated exercises. These officers are forced in this connection to leave their civilian positions.
2. Instruction in the Russian language in the army is considered to have advanced to such a point that the majority of the recruits both understand and speak Russian passably well at the end of their period of service.
3. The number of recruits in the labor battalions was estimated in November 1953 to amount to 10 to 15 per cent of all of the recruits in Poland.
4. In Kolobrzeg (Kolberg) there is an armored regiment in which all officers of the grade of major and above are Soviets.

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5. [redacted] fortifications are now being erected in the locality of Staschow (said to be located on Polish territory 12 kilometers from Frankfurt an der Oder) in connection with certain canal installations. The fortified area is 16 km. wide and 2 km. deep. The work force amounts to about 2,500 men, probably working in three shifts.

6. [redacted] concerning the construction of the east-west highway through Warsaw, the leveling work is to begin near Frankfurt an der Oder. From Poznan, a branch will be built to the Szczecin-Gdansk-Kaliningrad highway. Another branch will go via Bytom Odrzanski (approximately 30 km. southeast of Zielona Gora) and work at Bytom Odrzanski will begin early in 1954. Bridge materials will be delivered by the iron factory in Furstenberg and by the Skoda factory. The highways are to consist of two lanes of 10 meters each, separated by a broad middle strip which will be usable by tanks.

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7. [REDACTED] the Polish government has decided that the optical industry is to be modernized and centralized. This will, among others, take place with the help of a considerable collection of machines from the Zeiss factory at Jena, which is included in the war reparation deliveries. The now-existing small optical workshops which are spread all over the country are to be closed down and be included in the central industrial installations which will be set up at Warsaw and in Upper Silesia.

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